

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A system for controlling child access to a set of resources in a computerized environment, the system comprising:

a credit storage area for storing credits, wherein each credit entitles the child to a fixed amount of access to the set of resources;

credit tracking tools for adding and subtracting credits from the credit storage area in response to monitored activities of the child; and

an access regulation module for denying child access to the set of resources upon detection of insufficient credits in the credit storage area.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising administrator controls including a rules definition module for allowing an administrator to set access rules.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the administrator controls further comprise a child selection module enabling the administrator to create a rule set for each child.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein the administrator controls further comprise a device selection module for allowing the administrator to apply the access rules to a selected device.
5. The system of claim 2, wherein the administrator controls further comprise a content selection module enabling the administrator to select content viewable by the child.
6. The system of claim 1, further comprising activity monitoring tools for determining if a child performs a required activity.

7. The system of claim 1, further comprising a child user interface including a credit gauge enabling the child to view available credits.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the child interface includes a prompting display for prompting the child to earn credits.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the child user interface includes a notification display for notifying a child that insufficient credits are available.

10. The system of claim 7, wherein the child user interface further comprises a prompting display for prompting the child to perform required tasks.

11. The system of claim 1, further comprising an administrator user interface including a child activity log for allowing the parent to view the most recently performed child activity.

12. A method for controlling a child's access to a set of resources in a computerized environment, the method comprising:

storing a set of credits in a credit storage area, wherein each credit entitles the child to a fixed amount of access to the set of resources;

tracking credits earned in response to a child's performance of selected activities;

tracking credits used in response to the child's use of the set of resources; and

denying child access to the set of resources if insufficient credits exist in the credit storage area.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising allowing an administrator to select a child from a list of children using a child selection module.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising allowing an administrator to set access rules using a rules definition module.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a child selection module enabling an administrator to create a rule set for each child.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a device selection module for allowing an administrator to apply the access rules to a selected device.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a content selection module enabling an administrator to select content viewable by the child.

18. The method of claim 12, further comprising monitoring child activities in order to keep track of earned credits.

19. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a child user interface including a credit gauge enabling the child to view available credits.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising prompting the child to earn credits with the child user interface.

21. The method of claim 19, further comprising notifying the child with the child user interface when insufficient credits are available.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprising prompting the child on the child user interface to perform required tasks.

23. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing an administrator user interface with a child activity log for allowing the administrator to view recently performed child activities.